

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 /094 W
-----021109 190244Z /61

R 180632Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2169
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMCONSUL DURBAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4810

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MOPS, RH, MZ
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: RAID INTO MOZAMBIQUE

REF: MAPUTO 1043

1. DURING A RECENT VISIT TO SALISBURY IN SUPPORT OF GRAHAM/
LOW MISSION, EMBOFF SPOKE AT LENGTH WITH A RHODESIAN JOURNALIST
WHOSE SON AND SON-IN-LAW WERE BOTH INVOLVED AS SUPPORT PILOTS
FOR THE RHODESIAN RAID INTO MOZAMBIQUE IN LATE JULY. THE
JOURNALIST DEPICTED THE RAID AS A FILURE. HIS SONS SAID THAT,
DESPITE EXTENSIVE RECONNAISSANCE WORK, THE TARGET AREAS WERE
ALMOST DEVOID OF INHABITANTS WHEN THE STRIKE FORCES ARRIVED.
THE JOURNALIST'S VIEW WAS THAT THIS FACT MAY BE INDICATIVE
OF PATRIOTIC FRONT INFORMANTS WITHIN THE SECURITY FORCES.
ALL TOLD, HE SAID, THIRTY SEVEN GUERRILLAS WERE KILLED.
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RHODESIAN LOSSES DURING THE RAID WERE, AS PUBLICLY
ANNOUNCED, ONLY ONE MAN INJURED. THE SOURCE SAID, HOWEVER,
THAT TWO PERSONS WERE KILLED AFTER A HELICOPTER WAS SHOT
DOWN DURING A PRELIMINARY RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHT. HE SAID
ONE OTHER HELICOPTER CRASHED AND WAS LOST DURING THE RAID,
BUT NO ONE WAS INJURED.

2. THE JOURNALIST SAID THAT THE LOSS OF TWO AIRCRAFT AND THE USE OF EXTENSIVE AMOUNTS OF PRECIOUS FUEL WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT RESULTS MADE THE RAID A FAILURE. HIS SONS, HE SAID, TOLD HIM THAT ARMED FORCES MORALE HAD BEEN ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THE RAID BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF RESULTS. HE ALSO FELT THAT GENERAL WHITE MORALE WAS HURT BECAUSE THE PUBLIC EXPECTS TO HEAR OF IMPRESSIVE KILL RATIOS AND CAPTURES AFTER SUCH A RAID AND THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN UNABLE TO MAKE SUCH CLAIMS THIS TIME. EDMONDSON

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